

It is my understanding that FCC Chairman Genachowski plans to relax current controls over cross-ownership rules, which include limits on ownership of TV and radio stations and newspapers in the same market area. Such a plan is not good for the general public, the majority of which still relies on these local sources for their news, according to a recent Pew study.

I have read and agree with the 11/30/12 joint Senate letter to Chairman Genachowski signed by Senators Bernie Sanders, Patrick Leahy, et al, and the 11/29/12 letter sent by Senator Cantwell, which outline some of the reasons why this proposal would shut down diversity of topics and opinion in local media. As they point out, this plan is suspiciously similar to a 2008 FCC rule proposal, which would have allowed additional consolidation of broadcast media ownership and which was soundly rejected by both public criticism and by Senate Joint Resolution 28.

Please put a hold on these plans and, as a minimum, inform the public and allow the citizenry to give input. I, for one, believe continuation of this kind of media consolidation (which has increased at an alarming rate in the past two decades) is contributing to the destruction of our democracy and, therefore, should not be allowed!